



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

WISCONSIN RESTAURANT OWNER SENTENCED FOR HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

MILWAUKEE — A Wisconsin restaurant owner has been sentenced for hiring illegal aliens to work in his restaurants and providing them with fake identity documents, the result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Steven Metzler, 46, the co-owner of Julie's Café LLC, was sentenced Oct. 13 to five years probation and six months house confinement, and fined \$5,000. Julie's Café was also fined \$20,000, according to an announcement made by U.S. Attorney Steven M. Biskupic.

From 1998 until June 15, 2004, Julie's Café, which has two restaurants in Green Bay, Wis., and one restaurant in DePere, Wis., was engaged in a pattern and practice of hiring illegal aliens, according to court documents. Julie's Café is owned by Stephen Metzler and his wife. Julie's Café regularly employed illegal aliens who were required to purchase false identification documents from the owners in order to work. The false identification documents included fraudulent social security cards and birth certificates of United States citizens. The aliens were paid in cash and the fee for the false identity was deducted from their wages. Metzler harbored the illegal aliens by providing them with employment at Julie's Cafés.

Julie's Café LLC was charged in April with a pattern and practice of employing illegal aliens, and Metzler pleaded guilty at that time to one count of harboring illegal aliens

"We believe Julie's Café and its owner were deliberately flaunting the immigration laws of this country by hiring illegal aliens and providing those workers with bogus identity documents," said Brian Falvey, resident agent-in-charge of the Milwaukee ICE office. "ICE will use all its law enforcement authorities to investigate these types of violations."

The Green Bay Police Department and the Social Security Administration assisted in the investigation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tracy M. Johnson successfully prosecuted the case.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.